



A Brief History



1937

1941

The National Gallery of Art was created for the people of the United States of America in 1937 by a Joint Resolution of Congress, accepting the gift of financier, art collector, and public servant Andrew W. Mellon. His gift included old master paintings and sculptures and a building to house the new museum, to be constructed on the National Mall. On March 17, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted the completed National Gallery of Art on behalf of the American people. Opened to the public on the following day, this grand building, designed by John Russell Pope and now called the West Building, was at the time the largest marble structure in the world.

Andrew W. Mellon's hope that the newly created National Gallery would attract similar gifts of the highest quality from other collectors was soon realized in the form of major donations of European and American art from private donors. These eventually included founding benefactors Samuel H. Kress, Rush H. Kress, Joseph Widener, Chester Dale, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, Lessing J. Rosenwald, and Paul Mellon. This tradition of generosity continues to this day with gifts from hundreds of other donors and artists.

Location

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets NW, and along Constitution Avenue NW. The East and West Buildings are connected by an underground Concourse with a moving walkway.

Mailing Address

National Gallery of Art
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785

Internet Addresses

www.nga.gov
www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt
twitter.com/ngadc

General Information

202-737-4215

Admission

Admission is free at all times.

Hours

Open daily except December 25 and January 1.

East and West Buildings

Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm;
Sunday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sculpture Garden

Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day):
Monday - Thursday and Saturday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm; Friday 10:00 am - 9:30 pm;
Sunday 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Fall - Spring (Labor Day to Memorial Day):
Monday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm;
Sunday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Research Areas

The Study Rooms and the Library are open for research purposes by prior appointment.

Study Rooms

Open Monday - Friday 10:00 am - noon and 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Closed on national holidays. Telephone for appointments:

European prints and drawings
East Building (202-842-6380)

American prints and drawings
West Building (202-842-6605)

European medals and plaquettes
West Building (202-842-6093)

Photographs
West Building (202-842-6144)

Library

Open Monday noon - 4:30 pm and
Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am - 4:30 pm.
East Building (202-842-6511)

East Building

The East Building is designed to present the Gallery's permanent collection of modern art as well as special exhibitions. The large auditorium and small auditorium are located on the Concourse. The Library, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, offices, and the Study Room for European prints and drawings are located in the Administrative and Study Center.

Concourse

The underground Concourse linking the East and West Buildings contains the Cascade Café / Espresso & Gelato Bar and the Concourse Bookstore and Children's Shop.

West Building

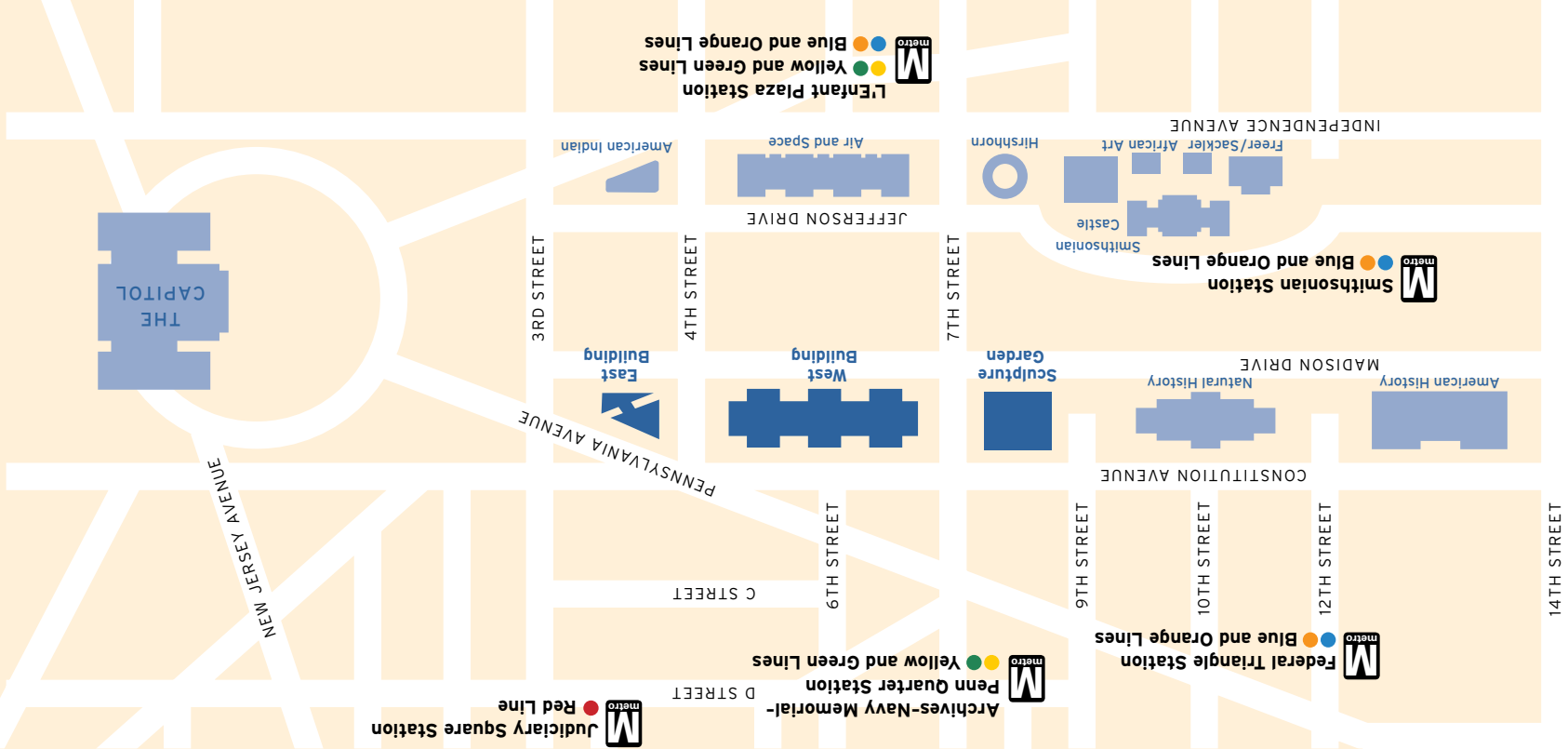
European art from the thirteenth through the nineteenth centuries and American art from colonial times to the early twentieth century are on view in the Main Floor galleries. The Ground Floor has galleries for prints, drawings, and photographs; galleries for sculpture, medals, plaquettes, furniture, and decorative arts; the Study Rooms for American prints and drawings, for photographs, and for medals and plaquettes; the West Building Lecture Hall; the Armand Hammer Galleries; the Garden Café; and the West Building sales shop. Special exhibitions are on view in selected galleries of the West Building.

Sculpture Garden

The Sculpture Garden provides an informal yet elegant setting for modern sculptures. The reflecting pool and fountain at the center of the Sculpture Garden become an ice rink during the winter and the setting for Jazz in the Garden during the summer. Visitors may dine indoors or outdoors at the Pavilion Café. The Sculpture Garden is wheelchair accessible. Visitors with disabilities may require assistance in the Pavilion.

Ice Rink

Winter (mid-November through mid-March, weather permitting):
Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm;
Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 11:00 pm;
Sunday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm



1978

The Gallery’s East Building, located on land set aside in the original Joint Resolution, was conceived to display the Gallery’s collection of modern painting, sculpture, and artists’ prints and drawings and to accommodate exhibitions, an advanced study and research center, staff offices, and an art reference library. The building, designed by I. M. Pei, opened on June 1, 1978, and was accepted for the nation by President Jimmy Carter. Funds for construction were given by Paul Mellon and Ailsa Mellon Bruce, the son and daughter of the Gallery founder, and by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Sculpture Garden, providing a distinctive landscaped setting for works from the Gallery’s collection of modern sculpture, opened to the public on May 23, 1999. The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation provided funds for construction and for several of the sculptures.



Restaurants

Concourse

Cascade Café: Monday – Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Espresso & Gelato Bar: Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 4:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 5:30 pm

West Building, Ground Floor

Garden Café: Monday – Saturday 11:30 am – 3:00 pm; Sunday noon – 4:00 pm (until 6:00 pm during the concert season in the West Building)

To reserve for groups of eight or more, call 202-712-7454.

Sculpture Garden Pavilion Café

Summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day): Monday – Thursday and Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm; Friday 10:00 am – 8:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Winter (mid-November through mid-March): Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm; Friday – Saturday 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Spring and Fall (mid-March through Memorial Day; Labor Day through mid-November): Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Hours are subject to change; consult the Gallery’s website.

Visitors with disabilities may request assistance in the restaurants.

Gallery Shops

Concourse

Art books, exhibition catalogues, and Gallery publications, as well as a special shop for children featuring books and educational toys and games

West Building, Ground Floor

Postcards, reproductions, stationery, jewelry, scarves, and other gift items

To order catalogues, books, and reproductions, call 800-697-9350 or shop online at shop.nga.gov.

Free Tours, Family Activities, Lectures, Films, Concerts

Information and schedules may be obtained at the Information Desks at building entrances or on the Gallery’s website at www.nga.gov. To receive the Gallery’s bimonthly Calendar of Events by mail, please inquire at any Information Desk or call 202-842-6662.

Tours of the permanent collection are offered regularly in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, and Spanish. Individuals and small groups also may schedule tours in these languages as well as in Dutch, Hebrew, Hungarian, and Portuguese by calling 202-842-6247.

ASL (American Sign Language) tours of the West Building collection are offered regularly.

Self-Guides



Pick up free self-guides at any Information Desk or at the Concourse escalators. Look for highlights of the West Building, East Building, and sculpture collections.

Audio Guides

Audio guides for adults and children are available free of charge in the West Building at the Mall entrance. Excerpts of these are also offered in French, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Audio tours in English for select temporary exhibitions are offered for a fee at the entrance to the exhibition. Amplified headphones and large-print scripts are available. For group reservations, call 202-842-6592.

www.nga.gov

Our website offers a wealth of information about the Gallery’s permanent collection, exhibitions past and present, programs and events, teaching resources, children’s activities, ways to plan your visit, and online shopping.

Services for Visitors with Disabilities  
www.nga.gov/ginfo/access.htm

The 6th Street entrance to the West Building at Constitution Avenue and the 4th Street entrance to the East Building have ramps and are fully wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the East Building and all West Building entrances.

The galleries and public areas and facilities are accessible by elevator. The Sculpture Garden is fully accessible.

Visitors with vehicles displaying the international symbol of accessibility may park – on a first-come, first-served basis – in limited spaces available on the West Building 4th Street Plaza. See the security officer on duty for further assistance.



1999

The National Gallery enjoys a supportive partnership of public commitment and private philanthropy to fulfill its mission to exhibit, preserve, and interpret great works of European and American art in the nation's collection. Since its founding, federal funds have fostered the protection and care of the nation's art collection and have supported the Gallery's operations and maintenance, ensuring that the Gallery is open 363 days a year, free of charge. Private support has created a renowned collection of

European and American works of art, provided funds to construct the two landmark buildings and the Sculpture Garden, and makes possible, in conjunction with federal support, a changing program of special exhibitions.



Assistive listening devices for use in both East Building auditoriums are available at the Information Desk on the Ground Level of the East Building. Listening devices for the West Building Lecture Hall are available at the Information Desk on the Ground Floor of the West Building at the Constitution Avenue entrance.

Sign-language interpreters and CART are available for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing. Guides for visitors who are blind or have low vision are available for tours of the permanent collection as well as special exhibitions with three weeks' notice. Printed scripts of all recorded tours are available, and large-print brochures are available for some of the special exhibitions. Special headphones, which deliver full-frequency digital audio sound, are also available free of charge. Films shown in conjunction with special exhibitions are closed captioned.

For further information, see the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov or call 202-842-6179, Monday through Friday between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 202-842-6176.

Information Desks ?

Information Desks are located adjacent to all public entrances.

Facilities ♿️💰♿️👶

Restrooms are located near the entrance lobbies and restaurant areas. Family restrooms are available for visitors requiring assistance from their companions. Consult the map for locations. Telephones are on the Concourse level.

First Aid 🏥

Security officers will direct visitors to the nurse.

Gallery Policies

Visitors must present all carried items for inspection upon entry. After inspection, all bags, backpacks, umbrellas, parcels, and other property as determined by security officers must be left at the checkrooms, free of charge, adjacent to each entrance. All oversized bags, backpacks, and luggage must be left at the checkrooms near the 6th Street Entrance to the West Building or the 4th Street entrance of either the East or West Building. These items will be subject to x-ray screening before acceptance. Items of value, such as laptop computers, cameras, and fur coats, may not be left in the checkrooms but may be carried into the galleries.

We regret that we are unable to accommodate items larger than 17 x 26 inches in the Gallery or its checkrooms.

Additional security procedures and checks may be instituted at the discretion of the Gallery.

For the safety of the art and visitors, nothing may be carried on a visitor's back.

Soft frontal baby carriers are allowed, but children may not be carried on shoulders or in a child carrier worn on the back. Strollers are available free of charge near each checkroom.

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Smoking is not permitted. Food and drink are not permitted outside the food service areas. Unopened bottled water may only be carried inside visitor's bag.

Speaking on cell phones is not permitted in the galleries.

Service animals are the only animals permitted in the Gallery.

Skateboarding is prohibited.



PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH WORKS OF ART. Dirt, moisture, and other contaminants present on hands can stain or corrode the surfaces. Help us protect the works of art and preserve our common heritage for future generations.

Photography

Photography (still and video) for personal use is permitted except in special exhibitions and where specifically prohibited. Tripods are not allowed.

FRONT
Leonardo da Vinci,
Ginevra de' Benci,
c. 1474, oil on panel,
National Gallery
of Art, Ailsa Mellon
Bruce Fund

FLAP
View of the National
Gallery of Art from
Constitution Avenue
© Dennis Brack /
Black Star

ABOVE FAR LEFT
View of the West
Building while under
construction in 1939

ABOVE LEFT
View of the East
Building © Dennis
Brack / Black Star

ABOVE
View of the reflecting
pool and fountain in
the Sculpture Garden
© Dennis Brack /
Black Star

Sculpture Garden

- 1

Marc Chagall (Russian, 1887-1985), *Orphée*, 1969, stone and glass mosaic, The John U. and Evelyn S. Nef Collection
- 2

Claes Oldenburg (American, born 1929, Sweden) and Coosje van Bruggen (American, 1942-2009), *Typewriter Eraser, Scale X*, 1999, stainless steel and cement, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 3

Joan Miró (Spanish, 1893-1983), *Personnage Gothique, Oiseau-Éclair (Gothic Personage, Bird-Flash)*, 1974, cast 1977, bronze, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 4

Louise Bourgeois (American, 1911-2010), *Spider*, 1996, cast 1997, bronze with silver nitrate patina, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 5

Tony Smith (American, 1912-1980), *Wandering Rocks*, 1967, painted steel, Gift of the Collectors Committee
- 6

Magdalena Abakanowicz (Polish, born 1930), *Puellae (Girls)*, 1992, bronze, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 7

Mark di Suvero (American, born 1933), *Aurora*, 1992-1993, steel, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 8

Scott Burton (American, 1939-1989), *Six-Part Seating*, 1985/1998, polished granite, Gift of the Collectors Committee
- 9

Joel Shapiro (American, born 1941), *Untitled*, 1989, bronze, Gift of the Collectors Committee
- 10

Robert Indiana (American, born 1928), *AMOR*, conceived 1998, executed 2006, polychrome aluminium, Gift of Simon and Gillian Salama-Caro in memory of Ruth Klausner
- 11

Ellsworth Kelly (American, born 1923), *Stele II*, 1973, one-inch weathering steel, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 12

Barry Flanagan (British, 1941-2009), *Thinker on a Rock*, 1997, cast bronze, Gift of John and Mary Pappajohn
- 13

Sol LeWitt (American, 1928-2007), *Four-Sided Pyramid*, 1999, first installation 1997, concrete blocks and mortar, Gift of the Donald Fisher Family
- 14

Lucas Samaras (American, born 1936, Greece), *Chair Transformation Number 20B*, 1996, patinated bronze, The Nancy Lee and Perry Bass Fund
- 15

David Smith (American, 1906-1965), *Cubi XI*, 1963, stainless steel, on loan from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 16

Tony Smith (American, 1912-1980), *Moondog*, 1964/1998-1999, painted aluminum, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 17

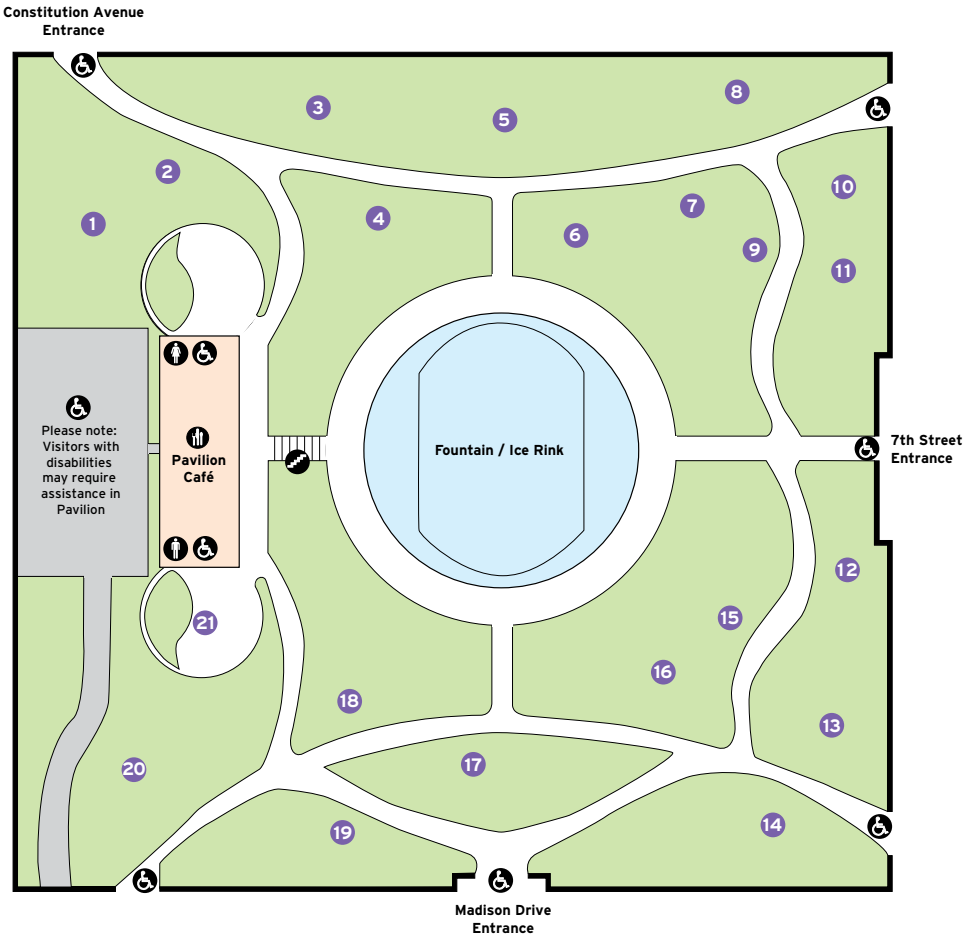
David Smith (American, 1906-1965), *Cubi XXVI*, 1965, steel, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund
- 18

Alexander Calder (American, 1898-1976), *Cheval Rouge (Red Horse)*, 1974, painted sheet metal, Courtesy Calder Foundation, New York
- 19

Roy Lichtenstein (American, 1923-1997), *House I*, 1996/1998, fabricated and painted aluminum, Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- 20

Roxy Paine (American, born 1966), *Graft*, 2008-2009, stainless steel and concrete, Gift of Victoria and Roger Sant
- 21

Hector Guimard (French, 1867-1942), *An Entrance to the Paris Métropolitain*, conceived 1902, fabricated 1902/1913, painted cast iron and bronze, Gift of Robert P. and Arlene R. Kogod



West Building

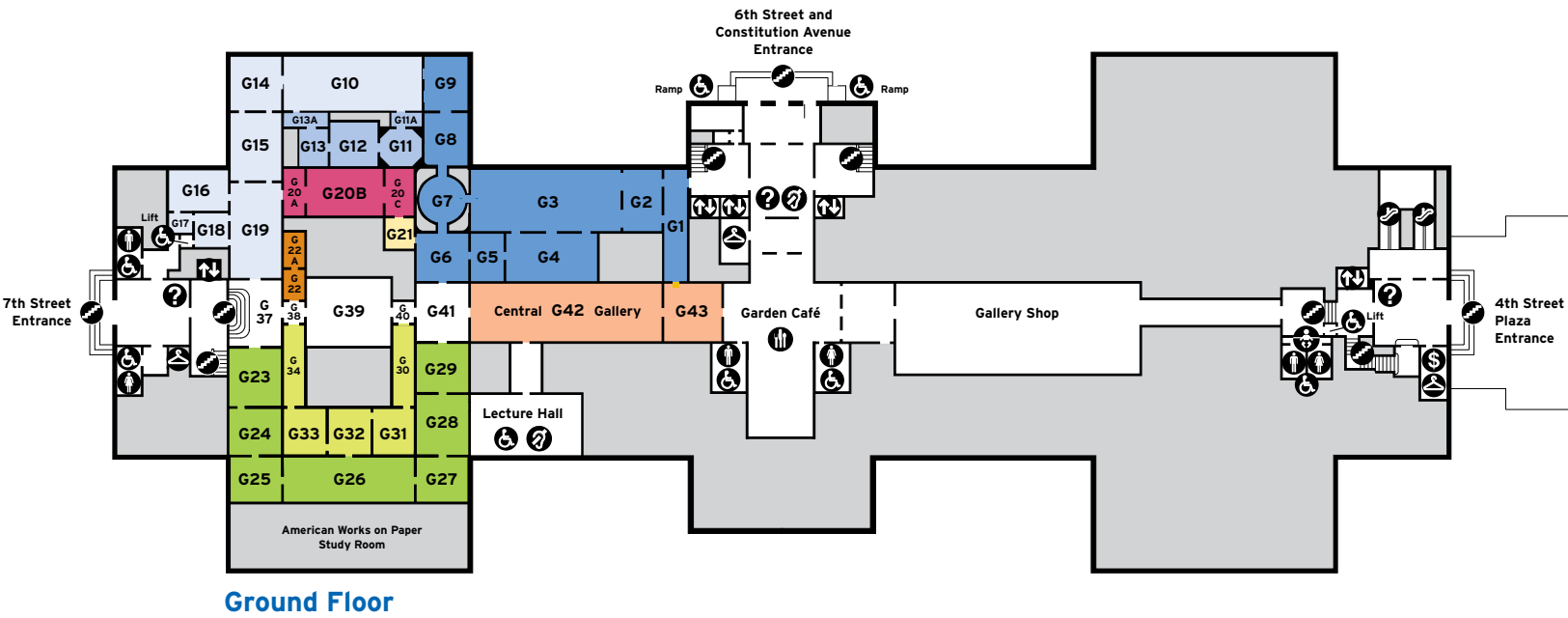
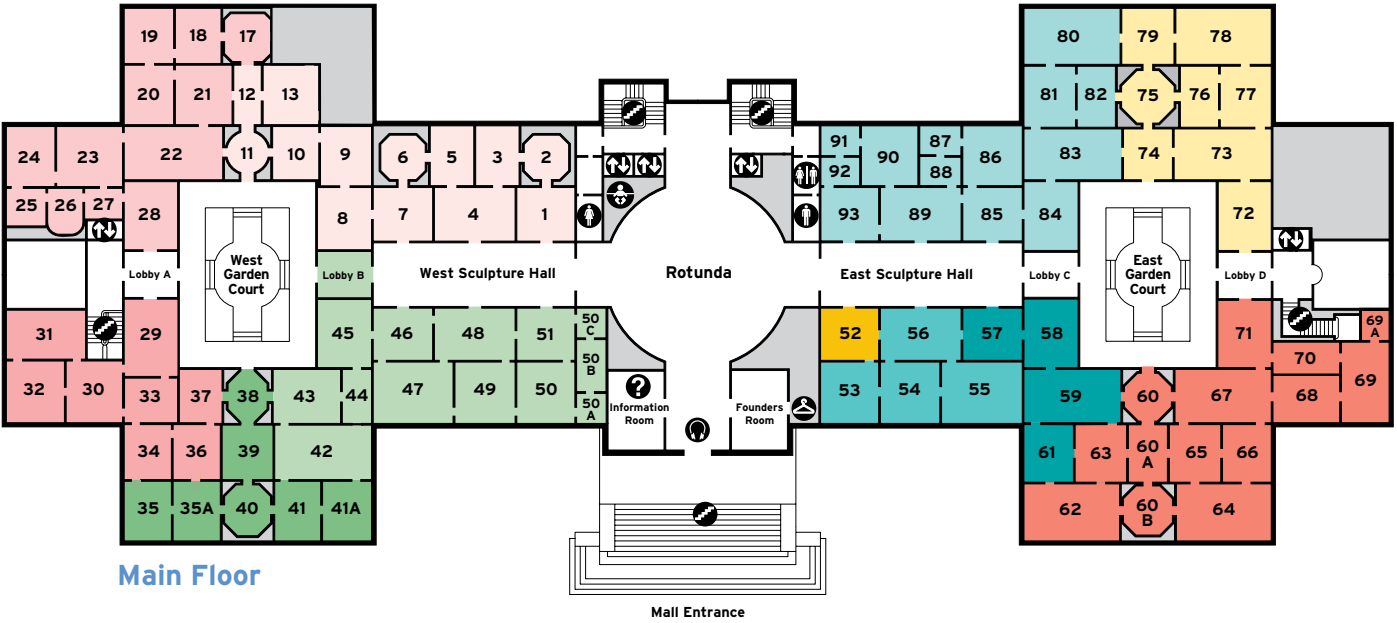


Directory

- Men's Restroom
- Women's Restroom
- Family Restroom
- Diaper Changing Station
- Checkroom
- Information Desk
- Audio Tour Desk
- Accessible for visitors with disabilities
- Telephone
- Stairway or steps
- Assistive Listening Device
- Elevator
- Escalator
- ATM
- Café or Food Service

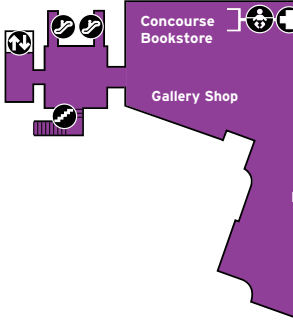
Permanent Collections

- 13th- to 16th-Century Italian Galleries 1-13
- 18th- and 19th-Century Spanish Gallery 52
- Armand Hammer Drawings Galleries G22 - G22A
- 17th- and 18th-Century French, Dutch, German, Flemish, and Italian Sculpture, Decorative Arts, and Painting Galleries G11 - G13A
- 16th-Century Italian, French, and Spanish Galleries 17 - 28
- 18th- and Early 19th-Century French Galleries 53 - 56
- Prints and Drawings Galleries G23 - G29
- Photographs Galleries G30 - G34
- 19th- and 20th-Century Sculpture and French Painting Galleries G1 - G9
- 17th- to 18th-Century Italian, Spanish, and French Galleries 29 - 34, 36 - 37
- British Galleries 57 - 59, 61
- American Decorative Arts and Painting Galleries G42 - G43
- Chinese Porcelain Galleries G20A - G20C
- 15th- to 16th-Century Netherlandish and German Galleries 35 - 35A, 38 - 41A
- American Galleries 60 - 60B, 62 - 71
- Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Painting, Sculpture, and Decorative Arts Galleries G10, G14 - G19
- 17th-Century Dutch and Flemish Galleries 42 - 51, Lobby B
- Special Exhibitions West Building: Galleries 72 - 79, G21

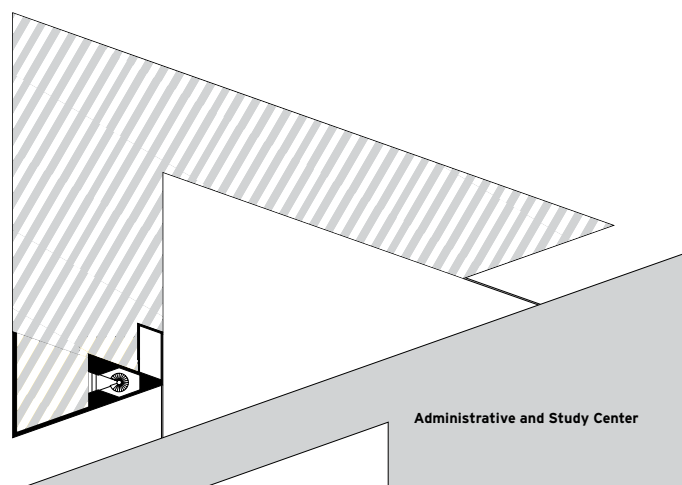


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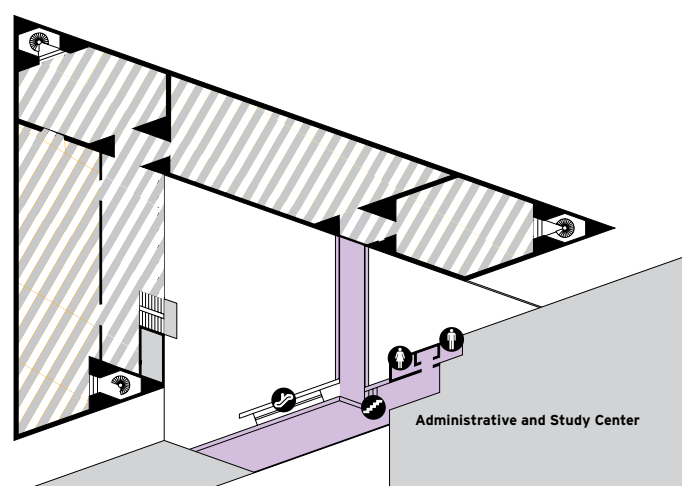


East Building



Tower

Tower

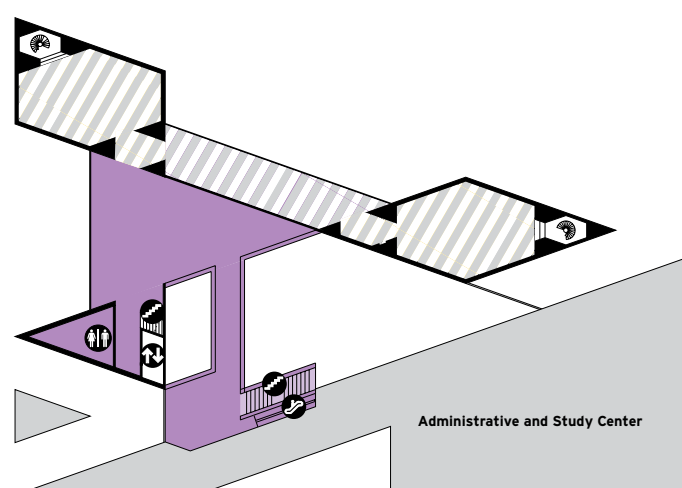


Upper Level

Upper Level

Restrooms

Escalator to Mezzanine



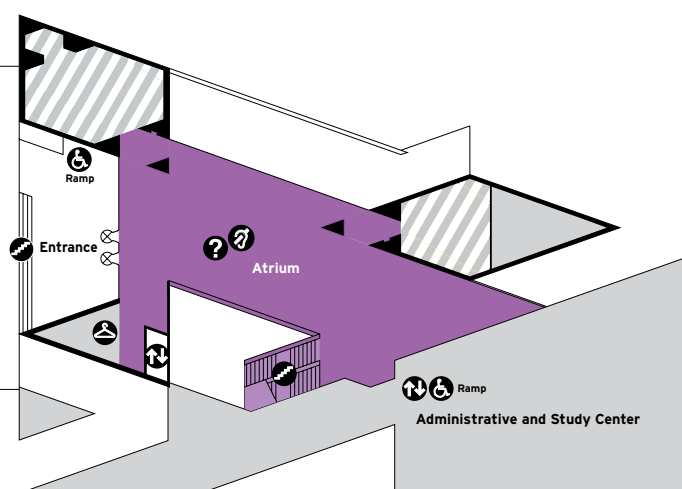
Mezzanine

Mezzanine

Elevator, restrooms

Stairs to Ground Level

Escalator to Upper Level



Ground Level

Ground Level

4th Street Entrance – West Building Plaza

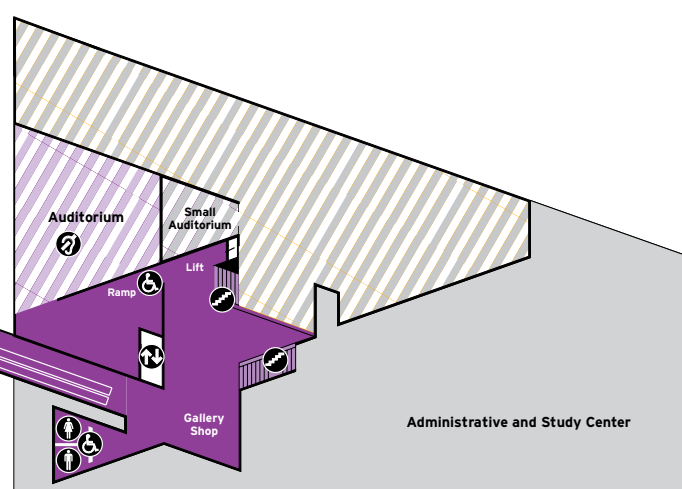
Checkroom

Information Desk

Elevator

Stairs to Concourse and Mezzanine

Access to Library and the
European Prints and Drawings
Study Room



Concourse

Concourse

Auditorium

Underground Walkway to West Building

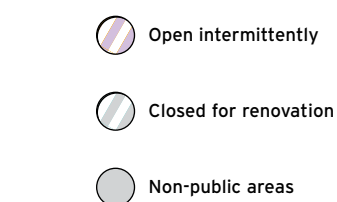
Cascade Ca

Gelato Bar

Concourse Bo

Gallery Shop

Elevator, restrooms



Please check at the
Information Desk for
additional details.

